

To: Cabinet
Date: 14 December 2022
Report of: Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: Grant Allocations to Community & Voluntary Organisations

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
Key decision:	No
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Councillor Dr Christopher Snowton, Scrutiny Committee Chair
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Shaista Aziz, Cabinet Member for Inclusive Communities and Culture;
Corporate Priority:	All
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2020-24
Recommendation: That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report.	

Appendices	
Appendix A	Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

Introduction and overview

1. The Scrutiny Committee met on 05 December 2022 to consider a report on the Grant Allocations to Community & Voluntary Organisations. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 14 December 2022, recommends that Cabinet resolves to note the implementation of the Oxford Community Impact Fund agreed by Cabinet on 15 December 2021 as part of the strategic grants review. The report further recommends that Cabinet resolves to recommend that applicants are requested to provide information regarding the demographics of their respective teams voluntarily as part of project monitoring for 2022/23 and obligatorily for grants awarded in 2023/24.

Summary and recommendations

2. The Committee was grateful to Cllr Shaista Aziz, Cabinet Member for Inclusive Communities and Culture, to Ian Brooke, Head of Community Services, and to Paula Redway, Culture and Community Development Manager, for attending to speak to the item and to answer the Committee's questions.
3. Cllr Aziz introduced the report and explained that it sought approval of the criteria and weighting for assessing the 2023/24 grant allocations and gave an interim update showing examples of the Community Impact Fund grants to date. The Council was proud of the difference such grants made in the community.
4. The Committee had questions answered around how applications were approved and how residents and members could provide feedback on particular grants made. The Committee was pleased to hear of support and advice given to organisations that wished to apply for grants but might not yet have been ready to do so.
5. The Committee recognised that Appendix 1 provided a long list of organisations that had received grants and that the names of some of the organisations made it immediately apparent what the nature of the organisation was likely to be. However, the Committee considered that it would be beneficial if it were easier to understand the nature of organisations and so suggested that a very brief summary be provided to aid transparency.

Recommendation 1: That the Council includes a very brief summary of the nature and purpose of individual organisations in receipt of Community Impact Fund grants at Appendix 1 of the report.

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